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## Consumer Price Index, Seattle area — December 2021

**Area prices were up 0.6 percent over the past two months, up 7.6 percent from a year ago**

Prices in the Seattle area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), increased 0.6 percent for the two months ending in December 2021, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (See [table A.](#)) Regional Commissioner Chris Rosenlund noted that the December increase was influenced by higher prices for household furnishings and operations and shelter. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, month-to-month changes may reflect seasonal influences.)

Over the last 12 months, the CPI-U advanced 7.6 percent. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A.](#)) Food prices increased 8.4 percent. Energy prices jumped 25.0 percent, largely the result of an increase in the price of gasoline. The index for all items less food and energy increased 6.5 percent over the year. (See [table 1.](#))

**Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA, December 2018–December 2021**

Month	All items	All items less food and energy
Dec 2018.....	2.8	2.6
Feb 2019.....	2.7	3.0
Apr 2019.....	2.4	2.6
Jun 2019.....	2.3	2.5
Aug 2019.....	3.2	3.7
Oct 2019.....	2.2	2.6
Dec 2019.....	2.2	2.4
Feb 2020.....	2.5	2.4
Apr 2020.....	1.3	1.6
Jun 2020.....	0.9	1.1
Aug 2020.....	1.6	1.4
Oct 2020.....	2.1	2.4
Dec 2020.....	1.4	1.3
Feb 2021.....	1.7	1.3
Apr 2021.....	3.4	2.7
Jun 2021.....	5.5	4.6
Aug 2021.....	5.2	4.1
Oct 2021.....	6.5	5.3
Dec 2021.....	7.6	6.5

### Food

Food prices rose 0.9 percent for the two months ending in December. (See [table 1.](#)) Prices for food at home increased 1.0 percent, led by higher prices for fruits and vegetables (4.0 percent) and meats, poultry, fish, and eggs (3.5 percent). Partly offsetting the increases were price declines in cereals and bakery products (-4.2 percent) and dairy and related products (-2.6 percent). Prices for food away from home advanced 0.9 percent for the same period.

Over the year, food prices increased 8.4 percent. Prices for food at home advanced 9.2 percent since a year ago, led by higher prices for meats, poultry, fish, and eggs (25.8 percent) and fruits and vegetables (10.2 percent). Prices for food away from home increased 7.5 percent.

## Energy

The energy index rose 1.0 percent for the two months ending in December. The increase was mainly due to higher prices for natural gas service (6.5 percent). Prices for gasoline increased 0.5 percent, and prices for electricity increased 0.3 percent for the same period.

Energy prices jumped 25.0 percent over the year, largely due to higher prices for gasoline (42.5 percent). Prices paid for natural gas service rose 8.0 percent, and prices for electricity advanced 2.0 percent during the past year.

## All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy advanced 0.5 percent in the latest two-month period. Higher prices for household furnishings and operations (8.2 percent) and shelter (0.6 percent) were partially offset by lower prices for recreation (-5.1 percent) and apparel (-1.9 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy increased 6.5 percent. Components contributing to the increase included used cars and trucks (38.2 percent), household furnishings and operations (20.9 percent), and shelter (3.0 percent). Partly offsetting the increases was a price decrease in motor vehicle insurance (-8.7 percent).

**Table A. Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA, CPI-U 2-month and 12-month percent changes, all items index, not seasonally adjusted**

Month	2017		2018		2019		2020		2021	
	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month	2-month	12-month
February .....	1.0	3.4	0.8	3.3	0.7	2.7	1.0	2.5	1.2	1.7
April .....	0.8	3.1	0.8	3.3	0.5	2.4	-0.6	1.3	1.1	3.4
June .....	0.8	3.0	0.8	3.3	0.7	2.3	0.2	0.9	2.2	5.5
August .....	-0.2	2.5	-0.3	3.1	0.6	3.2	1.4	1.6	1.1	5.2
October .....	0.5	3.0	0.4	3.1	-0.6	2.2	-0.1	2.1	1.1	6.5
December .....	0.5	3.5	0.2	2.8	0.3	2.2	-0.4	1.4	0.6	7.6

**The February 2022 Consumer Price Index for the Seattle area is scheduled to be released on March 10, 2022.**

## **Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic Impact on December 2021 Consumer Price Index Data**

Data collection by personal visit for the Consumer Price Index (CPI) program has been suspended almost entirely since March 16, 2020. When possible, data normally collected by personal visit were collected either online or by phone. Additionally, data collection in December was affected by the temporary closing or limited operations of certain types of establishments. These factors resulted in an increase in the number of prices considered temporarily unavailable and imputed.

While the CPI program attempted to collect as much data as possible, many indexes are based on smaller amounts of collected prices than usual, and a small number of indexes that are normally published were not published this month.

For each month from March 2020 to December 2021, BLS has published a summary of the impact of the pandemic on the Consumer Price Index news release and data. The impact summary for December is available at [www.bls.gov/covid19/consumer-price-index-covid19-impacts-december-2021.htm](http://www.bls.gov/covid19/consumer-price-index-covid19-impacts-december-2021.htm). Beginning with publication of January 2022 data in February 2022, this month-specific impact summary will be discontinued. However, information related to the impact of the pandemic will continue to be available at [www.bls.gov/covid19/effects-of-covid-19-pandemic-on-consumer-price-index.htm](http://www.bls.gov/covid19/effects-of-covid-19-pandemic-on-consumer-price-index.htm).

### **Technical Note**

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPIs for two population groups: (1) a CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) which covers approximately 93 percent of the total U.S. population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers approximately 29 percent of the total U.S. population. The CPI-U includes, in addition to wage earners and clerical workers, groups such as professional, managerial, and technical workers, the self-employed, short-term workers, the unemployed, and retirees and others not in the labor force.

The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and the other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Each month, prices are collected in 75 urban areas across the country from about 6,000 housing units and approximately 22,000 retail establishments—department stores, supermarkets, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments. All taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included in the index.
















































The index measures price changes from a designated reference date; for most of the CPI-U the reference base is 1982-84 equals 100. An increase of 7 percent from the reference base, for example, is shown as 107.000. Alternatively, that relationship can also be expressed as the price of a base period market basket of goods and services rising from \$100 to \$107. For further details see the CPI home page on the internet at [www.bls.gov/cpi](http://www.bls.gov/cpi) and the CPI section of the BLS Handbook of Methods available on the internet at [www.bls.gov/opub/hom/cpi/](http://www.bls.gov/opub/hom/cpi/).

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights that represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. Because the sample size of a local area is smaller, the local area index is subject to substantially more sampling and other measurement error than the national index. In addition, local indexes are not adjusted for seasonal influences. As a result, local area indexes show greater volatility than the national index, although their long-term trends are quite similar. **NOTE: Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices between cities; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.**

The Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA. metropolitan area covered in this release is comprised of King, Pierce, and Snohomish Counties in the State of Washington.











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**Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)**

Item and Group	Indexes				Percent change from-		
	Historical data	Oct. 2021	Nov. 2021	Dec. 2021	Dec. 2020	Oct. 2021	Nov. 2021
<b>Expenditure category</b>							
All items.....		303.099	-	304.856	7.6	0.6	-
All items (1967=100).....		923.964	-	929.320	-	-	-
Food and beverages.....		313.134	-	316.117	8.9	1.0	-
Food.....		315.339	-	318.288	8.4	0.9	-
Food at home.....		286.313	289.120	289.094	9.2	1.0	0.0
Cereals and bakery products.....		319.078	-	305.616	2.2	-4.2	-
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs.....		273.492	-	283.064	25.8	3.5	-
Dairy and related products.....		244.544	-	238.257	-2.6	-2.6	-
Fruits and vegetables.....		444.553	-	462.537	10.2	4.0	-
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials(1).....		362.350	-	361.330	6.5	-0.3	-
Other food at home.....		222.116	-	224.191	4.8	0.9	-
Food away from home.....		359.862	-	363.077	7.5	0.9	-
Alcoholic beverages.....		284.625	-	287.808	13.4	1.1	-
Housing.....		353.673	-	359.292	5.1	1.6	-
Shelter.....		404.396	405.828	406.791	3.0	0.6	0.2
Rent of primary residence(2).....		411.695	413.560	414.974	2.3	0.8	0.3
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(2)(3).....		423.403	424.924	427.111	1.9	0.9	0.5
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(1)(2).....		423.403	424.924	427.111	1.9	0.9	0.5
Fuels and utilities.....		289.446	-	292.611	3.2	1.1	-
Household energy.....		259.411	263.852	264.517	3.9	2.0	0.3
Energy services(2).....		305.872	311.267	311.267	3.4	1.8	0.0
Electricity(2).....		332.168	333.037	333.037	2.0	0.3	0.0
Utility (piped) gas service(2).....		177.637	189.151	189.151	8.0	6.5	0.0
Household furnishings and operations.....		201.337	-	217.820	20.9	8.2	-
Apparel.....		129.504	-	127.079	3.2	-1.9	-
Transportation.....		253.876	-	257.224	21.6	1.3	-
Private transportation.....		270.069	-	271.869	20.3	0.7	-
New and used motor vehicles(4).....		122.162	-	123.801	22.8	1.3	-
New vehicles(1).....		211.753	-	211.753	10.7	0.0	-
Used cars and trucks(1).....		450.934	-	479.426	38.2	6.3	-
Motor fuel.....		437.313	439.892	439.100	42.2	0.4	-0.2
Gasoline (all types).....		446.855	449.381	448.917	42.5	0.5	-0.1
Gasoline, unleaded regular(4).....		483.910	486.566	486.123	43.1	0.5	-0.1
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(4)(5).....		355.365	357.491	357.117	38.8	0.5	-0.1
Gasoline, unleaded premium(4).....		414.807	417.402	416.777	40.4	0.5	-0.1
Motor vehicle insurance(1).....		465.102	-	465.102	-8.7	0.0	-
Medical care.....		425.299	-	421.648	3.0	-0.9	-
Recreation(6).....		114.965	-	109.081	8.8	-5.1	-
Education and communication(6).....		146.890	-	146.417	0.4	-0.3	-
Tuition, other school fees, and child care(1).....		1,744.130	-	1,741.070	0.5	-0.2	-
Other goods and services.....		440.462	-	445.463	6.9	1.1	-
<b>Commodity and service group</b>							
All items.....		303.099	-	304.856	7.6	0.6	-
Commodities.....		223.826	-	225.903	14.4	0.9	-
Commodities less food & beverages.....		180.549	-	182.191	19.0	0.9	-
Nondurables less food & beverages.....		207.279	-	207.501	13.8	0.1	-
Durables.....		150.645	-	153.297	25.0	1.8	-
Services.....		375.863	-	377.234	3.7	0.4	-

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

**Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued**

Item and Group	Indexes				Percent change from-		
	Historical data	Oct. 2021	Nov. 2021	Dec. 2021	Dec. 2020	Oct. 2021	Nov. 2021
<b>Special aggregate indexes</b>							
All items less medical care .....		297.698	-	299.722	7.9	0.7	-
All items less shelter.....		263.816	-	265.328	10.2	0.6	-
Commodities less food .....		184.648	-	186.353	18.6	0.9	-
Nondurables .....		258.097	-	259.687	10.8	0.6	-
Nondurables less food.....		213.750	-	214.249	13.8	0.2	-
Services less rent of shelter(3).....		350.102	-	350.359	4.7	0.1	-
Services less medical care services.....		367.933	-	369.703	3.8	0.5	-
Energy .....		356.670	360.259	360.191	25.0	1.0	0.0
All items less energy .....		303.573	-	305.266	6.8	0.6	-
All items less food and energy .....		301.708	-	303.174	6.5	0.5	-

**Footnotes**

(1) Indexes on a November 1977=100 base.

(2) This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series were calculated using a geometric means estimator.

(3) Indexes on a December 1982=100 base.

(4) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

(5) Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

(6) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

- Data not available

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date.